


SEISDON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1903.

WOLVERHAMPTON :
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WELLINGTON HOUSE,
PENN FIELDS,
WOLVERHAMPTON,
FEBRUARY, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Health Report for the Rural District of Seisdon for 1903.

POPULATION.

The Population is estimated at 13,111 :

Being an increase of 122 in Tettenhall.

„ „ 9 in Kinver.

„ „ 122 in Wombourn.

Total Increase ... 253

The Births, viz. 327, are only one in excess of last year, despite the considerable building activity in some parts of the district. There were seven male births in excess of females, Kinver having nearly double of males.

BIRTHS.

DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tettenhall ..	39	46	85	21	20	41
Kinver ..	47	24	71	29	30	59
Wombourn ..	81	90	171	36	46	85
	167	160	327	89	96	185

The Death Rate is 14·1, which is exactly the average of the last ten years ; last year it was only 12·1 The Death Rate of children under one year is 110 per 1,000 births, which is a good deal below the average. This is not, I fear, due to better nursing, as the ignorance of mothers is appalling. Health Classes, or pamphlets for women being sadly needed.

There were the large number of ten uncertified cases buried without an inquest.

Causes of Death for the last 10 years :—

Causes.				1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlatina .. ..	..	..	3	2	2	2	2	..	3	..	..	..	4
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	3	3	3	2	..	1	..	1	1	1	1
Croup .. ..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
Fever	{	Typhus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Enteric .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
		Continued .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Relapsing .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Puerperal .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	1	..	2	4	6	..	4	1	..	..	1
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	1	6	1	6	1	4	6	3	2	1	1
Enteritis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	4	2	2
Diarrhoea and Dysentery ..	..	..	5	3	8	9	6	7	2	7	..	..	6
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis .. ..	..	..	18	9	7	13	9	7	12	7	7	7	7
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy ..	{			24	55	32	41	38	49	24	16	29	32
Heart Disease .. ..	..	..	24	16	12	21	18	21	39	30	17	24	24
Injuries .. ..	..	..	4	10	1	8	7	6	4	11	9	1	1
All other Diseases .. ..	..	..	84	106	111	100	93	106	119	87	88	105	105
Totals .. ..	..	..	169	213	180	208	182	205	215	166	157	185	185

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER has been exceedingly prevalent this year, as also in some of your neighbouring districts. There have been scattered cases throughout the district all through the year, which were generally clearly traced to infection from outside. There were also, I regret to say, three or four cases apparently caught from discharged patients; but as more than the ordinary excessive care was taken in their discharge, I can only lay it down to the exceedingly contagious form of the disease, or to the cases being *post hoc* and not *propter hoc*. The most serious outbreak, though, was in the Wombourn District, which was at its height in the third and early part of the fourth quarters. This

started with two or three cases of so mild a nature that no doctor was consulted, and after a day or two they were allowed to attend school again, and thus spread the disease broadcast. German Measles unfortunately was prevalent at the same time, from which the children also peeled, many children having one rash out while peeling from an attack of the other a week or two previously.

In several cases when the rash was not seen at its height, or was not well developed, it was impossible for the Medical Attendants to be absolutely certain which disease it was, so that as it was unfair to remove doubtful cases to certain infection a few real cases possibly had their freedom, and with other hushed up ones kept up the epidemic. Four were of a suppressed form and proved rapidly fatal.

If the earlier cases had been diagnosed and removed at once, as is our custom, in my opinion we should not have had more than three or four cases in the Wombourn District. This epidemic strengthens my firm belief in Isolation Hospitals being exceedingly efficacious.

In consequence of the epidemic the Wombourn Schools were closed for several weeks.

MUMPS AND MEASLES have been scarce.

DIPHTHERIA.—There have been only two cases, one proving fatal, in the Kinver district. There were 19 cases in 1895.

SMALL-POX.—There was one case of such a suspicious nature that, acting on the advise of a brother Medical Officer of Health, I removed it to your new Small-pox Hospital, and vaccinated the household and took every other precaution. I was exceedingly thankful that you had made this provision, while your neighbours only talked about it.

VACCINATION is much more universal than before the last Act, but we shall never be safe from Small-pox till compulsory Vaccination and Re-vaccination is enforced. Inefficient Vaccination is still very prevalent, children being frequently vaccinated in one or two places for a shilling, or even free. I believe domiciliary vaccination costs the Rural Public Vaccinator at least ten times more time and labour than the old system. Out of 335 Births from June 30th, 1902, to June 30th, 1903, there are still 31 infants unvaccinated, including ten exempts.

TYPHOID FEVER.—There was only one case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were ten deaths from Tuberculosis. At the Conference held between Local Authorities and the County Council, at Stafford, on Nov. 10th, which I had the pleasure of attending with three or four of your Council, the following resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority:—"That this meeting is of opinion it is desirable to provide a Sanatorium for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the County, and without pledging themselves to support any specific proposal, the representatives of the Local Authorities present would gladly welcome and give most favourable consideration to any scheme having that object in view, which the County Council may submit for the approval of the Local Authorities, framed on the lines set forth in the report of the County Medical Officer of Health dated March 31st, 1903."

This resolution bound you to very little, in that no definite scheme has been formulated. Should a Sanatorium be built it would, we were told, probably mean a county rate of about $\frac{1}{3}$ d. in the pound, and that each Local Authority should pay £1 or less per patient per week.

I was surprised to hear Dr. Bamford, of Uttoxeter Rural District Council, state that Staffordshire was totally unfit for a Sanatorium. I believe many suitable sites, as far as climate and aspect are concerned, could be found in your own district. Besides sudden change of air, fatiguing railway journeys, and travelling expenses are all important items.

SANITARY WORK.

Tap water has been laid on to 47 houses, all at Swindon.

I regret to have again to report that water supply and drainage is still urgently needed for the village of Kinver. Many thousands visit this village during the summer months, therefore this matter is still more urgent.

With regard to the removal of night soil in the Parish of Penn, there are general complaints of the negligence of the present Contractor, and I should strongly advise the work should be undertaken by the Council.

There is still a difficulty in getting night soil removed in an efficient manner in Wombourn, Kinver, and Autherley Lane.

I again call your attention to the shockingly insanitary condition of several roads in the Parish of Penn, viz., Star Street, Smith's Road, Merry Hill, and Swan Bank. They have recently been impassible, and I consider it a most urgent matter, and hope the Council will give it their immediate attention.

Ten houses have been closed as being uninhabitable.

An extensive drainage scheme for Upper Penn, Penn Fields, and Bradmore, is now well in hand (though I understand it will take about two years to complete), at the

estimated cost of £14,000, which you, I believe, hope to cover by a shilling rate. By this scheme the sewage is to be carried to land—promptly purchased by you when opportunity offered two or three years ago—near the Leasows Farm, and will be there treated on the latest Bacteriological systems, and finally run over the land. The old drains are to be left to carry the surface water, for which purpose they were originally solely intended.

Further details of the Sanitary Work you will find appended in the Inspector's Report.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

This Rural District not being at all a manufacturing one, is not greatly affected by this Act. It has only two or three factories, and the workshops only employ a few hands. Still a few nuisances have been discovered and remedied.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.



TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONG- ING TO THE DISTRICT
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.*			
1893	..	12289	330	26·8	29	97·8	160	13·0	7	..
1894	..	12408	301	24·2	29	96·3	169	13·5	3	..
1895	..	12824	373	29·0	49	131·3	213	16·6	10	..
1896	..	13063	324	24·8	40	123·4	180	13·7	10	..
1897	..	13416	302	22·5	51	168·8	208	15·3	8	..
1898	..	13636	348	25·5	45	129·3	182	13·3	6	..
1899	..	13698	309	22·5	36	116·5	205	14·9	11	..
1900	..	13773	329	23·1	32	97·2	215	15·6	15	..
1901	..	12713	323	25·4	34	105·2	166	13·1	6	..
1902	..	12394	326	25·2	29	88·9	157	12·1	6	..
Averages for years 1893-1902		13071	326	24·9	37	114·4	185	14·1	8·2	..
1903	..	13111	327	24·9	36	110·0	185	14·1	14	187

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 35,748. Total population at all ages, 12,894. } At Census of 1901.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,001. Average number of persons per house, 4.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons | Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons
from outside the District:—Seisdon Workhouse; Bratch from the District:—Wolverhampton General Hospital;
Isolation Hospital. Women's Hospital; Eye Infirmary.

TABLE II.

RURAL DISTRICT OF SEISDON.

Names of Localities.	TETTENHALL.						KINVER.				WOMBOURN.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.
1893	3305	77	46	5	3143	76	42	5	5841	177	72	19		
1894	3355	64	49	7	3194	82	43	4	5931	155	77	18		
1895	3375	94	59	8	3429	87	53	13	6020	192	101	28		
1896	3400	80	53	14	3523	84	44	11	6140	160	83	15		
1897	3590	87	57	20	3625	68	52	8	6201	147	99	23		
1898	3690	88	49	12	3660	83	59	11	6286	177	74	25		
1899	3610	87	52	16	3708	75	64	10	6380	147	89	20		
1900	3640	92	42	9	3713	91	61	10	6420	146	112	13		
1901	3353	82	44	11	3158	70	44	10	6202	171	78	20		
1902	3446	92	45	9	3220	85	50	9	6228	149	62	11		
Averages of years 1893 to 1902..	3486	84	47	9	3437	80	49	9	6164	162	84	18		
1903	3568	85	41	11	3229	71	59	11	6314	171	85	15		

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1903.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each locality.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.										
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & upwards	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.
Small-pox ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Diphtheria ..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	4	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	3	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	63	17	42	2	3	..	16	6	41	13	1	38
Enteric Fever ..	2	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	72	19	43	4	6	..	18	8	46	13	1	39

Isolation Hospital. The Bratch, Wombourn.

TABLE IV.

I give here Comparative Table of Causes of Death, and Ages at which Death occurred, during the year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all Ages).			Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Tettenhall.	Kinver.	Wombourn.	
Measles	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Scarlet Fever	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diphtheria & Membraneous } Croup	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Croup	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diarrhoea	6	3	..	..	..	2	1	3	3	..	..
Enteritis	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
Phthisis	7	..	..	..	1	5	1	3	2	..	..
Other tubercular diseases	3	..	2	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	10	..	..	..	..	4	6	..	5	5	..
Bronchitis	25	4	2	..	..	3	16	4	4	17	..
Pneumonia	7	3	..	..	..	3	1	2	2	3	..
Premature Birth	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..
Diseases and Accidents of { Parturition	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
Heart Diseases	24	1	..	..	..	11	12	6	9	9	..
Accidents	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
All other causes	86	17	3	..	2	9	55	17	30	39	13
All causes	185	36	11	1	6	39	92	41	59	85	14

TABLE V.—Houses, &c., Erected in the Seisdon Rural District during the year 1903.

PARISHES.	Houses erected.	Plans passed but houses not erected.	Warehouse	Piggeries.	Additions and alterations.	Stabling.	Bakehouses	Mission Hall.	Memorial Hall.
BOBBINGTON	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CODSALL & OAKEN ..	7	2	1	..	3	1	..	..	..
ENVILLE .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HIMLEY .. ..	..	..	..	..	{ 2, & 2 plans passed, not erected. }	..	..	..	..
KINVER .. ..	..	..	..	..		1	1	..	..
PATTINGHAM	1	..	..	..		..	..	{ Plan passed, not erected }	..
UPPER PENN..	58	21	..	5	7	1	..		..
LOWER PENN	2	2	..	..	2	..	..		..
PATSHULL .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
SWINDON	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
TRYSULL .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
WOMBOURN	3	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..
WROTTESEY	6	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	80	26	1	6	22	5	1	1	1

76 plans were passed during the year ending 31st December, 1903.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR 1903.

Number of Houses Inspected	665
Number of Notices on Books, 31st December, 1902...	8
Number of Notices Served	121
Complied with	123
Leaving on the Books, 31st December, 1903 ...	6
Letters written relative to Nuisances	167
Bakehouses Inspected	12
Slaughter-houses Inspected	11
Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Inspected	54
Canal Boats Inspected... ..	78
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Houses Closed unfit for Habitation	10
Repaired	33
Limewashed	35
Disinfected	53
Yards Paved	1
Water Closets Repaired and Ventilated	12
Cellars Drained	6
Spouting Provided	1
Filthy Houses Cleansed	1
Wash-houses repaired and Limewashed	6
Privies Removed and Reconstructed	16
Emptied and Cleansed	218
Ashpits Repaired	16
Ashpits built to Privies	8
Privies Repaired	3
Pan System Adopted	16
Privies Limewashed	41
Urinals provided	2
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Carried forward ...	478

				Brought forward	...	478
W.C's. provided	3
Drains laid to Houses	46
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	46
Trapped	...	...	...	...	...	37
Cesspits Constructed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cesspools Emptied	...	...	...	...	...	9
Foul Cesspits filled up	...	...	...	...	...	5
Foul Ditches Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Foul Cellar Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pigsties removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Foul Pigwash removed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Manure and other Filth removed	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cowsheds Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tap Water laid on to Houses	...	...	...	...	...	47
Wells Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wells Covered, Repaired, Paved, and Channelled	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Analysed—Wholesome	...	...	...	...	...	9
Polluted	...	...	...	...	...	2
Workshops Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/> 759 <hr/>

WORKS DONE.

50 yards of 6in. sewer laid in Church Road, Penn.
 40 yards of 9in. sewer laid in Coalway Road, Penn.
 70 yards of 6in. sewer laid in Sewage field at back of
 Roebuck Inn, Penn.
 40 yards of 6in. sewer laid in Coalway Road, Penn Fields.
 60 yards of 9in. sewer laid near the Bush Inn, Wombourn.
 102 yards of 6in. sewer laid near New Inn, Wombourn.
 33 yards of 6in. sewer laid near Schools, Trysull.

